LE/370 AND COBOL FOR MVS INSTALLED ON CPU4 CICS

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The ITS CICS group will install Language Environment for MVS and VM (LE/370) V1R5 in most CICS regions of CPU4 on November 20, 1996. Affected regions are: CICSAT, CICSIT, CICSTR, CICST, CICST1, and CICST3. CICST2 and CICSDVD1 already execute under the LE/370 run-time environment. Because they are production mirror regions, CICSM and CICSM1 will remain with their current run-time environments at this time.

Regions scheduled for the installation will have their existing run-time libraries replaced with the new LE/370 libraries. Libraries scheduled for removal from CICS JCL are:

SYS1.COB2CICS
SYS1.COB2LIB
SYS1.PLI.PLILINK
SYS1.PLI.SIBMLINK
SYS1.PLI.PLIBASE
SYS1.PLI.SIBMBASE

Replacing them are:

DP.LE370.SCEERUN
DP.LE370.SCEECICS

Replacement of the COBOL II and PL/I libraries with the LE/370 libraries should be transparent to state programmers and our user community. You need make no changes to accommodate this installation.

With the installation of LE/370, the CICS group is also implementing a COBOL for MVS, the year 2000 compliant COBOL, compiler option in the ITS CICS compiler dialogue. Access to the dialogue is within ISPF/PDF, command L.CICS, from the main menu. Two COBOL for MVS compiler procs, IGYWPCL and IGYWPCPL, are also available in SYSP.PROCLIB. These procs may not contain required SYSLIB or SYSLIN libraries, however, and are available as examples only.

LE/370 run-time modules are used by applications written in COBOL, PL/I, C/C++, and FORTRAN. Downward compatibility of LE/370 insures that existing COBOL applications written in VS COBOL or COBOL II and executing on CPU4 CICS do *not* have to be recompiled with COBOL for MVS to continue to execute once this change goes into effect. However, our testing of an existing application compiled with COBOL for MVS and running under LE/370 at Workforce Services found that the application would not execute in the state's existing COBOL II environment. Therefore, understand that programs you compile with COBOL for MVS to run on CPU4 LE/370-supported CICS regions may not execute once migrated to CICS on other CPUs, unless those regions also have LE/370 installed.

Our recommendation is to continue using the COBOL II compiler until all CICS regions have migrated to LE/370.

LE/370 is a system of architectural constructs and interfaces that provide a common run-time environment and run-time services for conforming compiler products (see above). It provides a consistent layer above the operating system for system services and protocols. LE/370 comprises basic functions that satisfy the needs common to most programs running on the system, such as functions that support starting and stopping programs, allocating storage, interprogram communication, and indication of error conditions. In addition, it contains library routine functions such as math routines, date and time services, and other utilities.

The functions and, in particular, the interlanguage communication support of LE/370 allow programmers to extend and integrate their applications, whether written in COBOL, PL/I, C, or FORTRAN, as well as share and reuse code between applications with greater flexibility. This can reduce the cost of application development, testing, and maintenance while helping to improve code quality.

IBM COBOL for MVS enhances COBOL applications by adding object-oriented language, and it lets programmers upgrade their applications and expand them to other platforms. COBOL programmers can create objects in a language they already know, reducing the long learning curve required to learn a new object-oriented language. As mentioned previously, the product is year 2000 compliant. COBOL for MVS also features a mainframe interactive debugging tool. This tool allows programmers to debug their applications as they are executing in their native host environments.

Additional information and reference for LE/370 and COBOL for MVS can be found using IBM Bookmanager to access the following bookshelves:

CEE5S004	Language Environment for MVS & VM Bookshelf
IGYMS000	COBOL for MVS & VM Bookshelf